

SOUTH ASIA
WOMEN'S FUND

SAWF



Annual Report 2010-11



■ ABOUT US

■ South Asia Women's Fund (SAWF), a non-governmental regional initiative, was launched in 2004 and hosted in Sri Lanka with the main aim to promote and support women's human rights work in the South Asian Countries of Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Working within a rights based framework, SAWF seeks to nurture a new line of women's leadership, advance feminist ideals and provide the much needed impetus to new and innovative ideas, especially at the grassroots level.

Contents



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 3

OUR TRANSITION 4

GOAL 5

WHY SAWF ? 6

STRATEGY 6

PROGRAMMES 7



THE WAY FORWARD 21

GOVERNANCE 23

EXECUTIVE TEAM 23

AUDITOR'S OPINION 27

BALANCE SHEET 2010-2011 28

STATEMENT OF
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 29

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Emerging into the second phase, with a clear vision, mission, programme strategy and funds to support effective implementation; SAWF is embarking on a completely new adventure!

It has also been a long awaited journey for us, and we are happy to share snap-shots from it with you, through this first annual report. There have been many ups and downs, hiccups and bursts of speed; but all of it has been welcome, exciting and inspiring! We have many people to thank for this year, which has launched us, towards fulfilling our mission of becoming a sustainable philanthropic institution, committed to supporting the human rights of women in the region.

While our transition was completed in April, 2010; the Board of Directors and the transition team has been untiring in its support to our growth and forward movement in developing and implementing our programme strategy. We would especially like to thank our out-going Directors;

Mr. Someswaran, Sri Lanka, for all his support in ensuring we had all required documentation related to our financial records and always being kind to the Colombo based team during their various calls on location of contracts etc.

Ms. Rukshanda Naz, for her work in introducing us to potential partners in Pakistan; we do hope she will continue to advice on our outreach and programmes in her country.

For our Board of Directors, words are not enough to thank them for their hard work and support to the team, even in our impossible dreams such as an open office policy;

Kumudini Samuel, Sara Hossain, Sepali Kottegoda and Suneeta Dhar, provided constant feed-back, whenever approached, and made themselves available for bouncing ideas, making their homes and hearths available for us on our various journeys; and above all being our safety net.

Priya Paul has been the ideal chair; supporting our work in an engaged manner and ensuring things get done and are not lost in unending process; but also ensuring that our accountability standards did not slip, even for a second!

The Advisors, Sunila, Niti, Jaell, Jana and Bandana have been invaluable in helping us to remain focus on our goal, and ensuring that we are constantly thinking out of the box with regard to our outreach and implementation work.

We would not have had our logo and informative and useful website without the Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotel's support! Thank you Atika, Anindita and Tania for all your generosity, fabulous work and inputs!

Many thanks are due to Neelan Thiruchavelan Trust for giving us a home, and being our friend;

Our work would not have been possible without the inspiration and motivation of our Founding Chair Prof. Savitri Goonasekere, whose mentorship we value deeply,

Last but not the least; we thank our wonderful donors, Ford Foundation, Mama Cash and Oak Foundation, for their belief in our vision and our commitment.

As an ED writing this, I also have the absolute joy of thanking my newly formed team for their work: Puja Roy, Buddhika Edirisinghe, Anisha Chugh, Vineeta Tiwari and Naadira Hassen comprise a dream team and it is an absolute pleasure working with them!

While we look forward to moving a step close to our dream in the next year, thank you Ram Lali (cover page) for inspiring us every day with your smile- you epitomise SAWF's vision and mission.

Tulika Srivastava
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2010-11 has been a roller-coaster ride for SAWF! Completing the transition and laying the groundwork from implementing the new strategies into programmes was quite a challenge for everyone involved in the process! Our three main programmes, Grant-making, Institution building and Donor Mapping were all initiated in the year, which will expand and grow stronger in the years to come.

In the first phase of grant-making, three grants were supported under the small grants programme and three workshop grants were awarded to three women with disabilities to attend the CREA Count Me In conference in Kathmandu in April 2011. With the programme team in place, networking and advocacy was undertaken by a lot of vigour and SAWF was able to reach out to many local women's rights organisations in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh. The Donor Mapping study was also launched, which will be an important contribution by the organisation in its endeavour to promote social justice philanthropy in the region.

The institution building programme has also had a very promising start. SAWF was able to establish its "open office" with programme officers, financial officer and administrative staff being firmly in place. We have also been successful in expanding our donor outreach with the support of Mama Cash and Oak Foundation in addition to Ford Foundation.

Last but definitely not the least, SAWF is starting out its second phase under a new and dynamic leadership; its current board and advisors comprise accomplished and expert individuals from vibrant backgrounds of media, corporate sectors, academics and human rights.

We hope to strengthen our outreach and intervention through our programmes in the years to come!

OUR TRANSITION

In 2007, following three years of grant-making, SAWF, undertook a review of its brief grant-making journey, which indicated that ownership of the fund by the women's movement was critical, if the Fund was to fulfil its mandate. As a result a transition process was initiated which broadened SAWF's role as an implementer to incorporate resource mobilisation within a social justice paradigm, which has an essential role in promoting philanthropic giving and institutional funding to ensure women's rights and interests. As a result, in 2009 an entire overhaul of the strategies, programmes and leadership was undertaken. In its post-transition phase, SAWF is focusing on creating a regional mandate which is located in national realities. The issue of women's rights needs to be addressed within country specific context, at the same time, drawing and building from these national realities, a regional agenda.



GOAL

A regional and national platform for South Asian women to ensure, address and advocate for women's human rights by creating a sustainable philanthropic institution for, by and with women and women's movements

WHY SAWF ?

We believe that SAWF has a critical role to play in the women's rights movement in the Sub-continent. Asserting their independent identity and creating a space for themselves has always been a challenge for the women in this region, where both the public and the private sphere operate within a strong patriarchal framework.

There is also lack of funding for women's human rights work; the developmental approach to critical issues of poverty and economic security is extremely welfarist. While there is some attention being paid to alleviating poverty; the emphasis is very much on aspects of livelihood in terms of SHG building and cooperatives. Right to physical integrity and security, right to movement and political participation- in terms of leadership and well as citizens; continue to be ignored and marginalized.

In addition, the paucity of regional mechanisms and spaces; despite the shared cultural and socio-political contexts; create a strong mandate for a women's fund which could build on the learning; and ensure resources for critical issues as per the needs of the region. Further, such an institution would support the budding women's movement South Asia; where women's rights activists and organizations from the five countries are able to appear on a common platform which will facilitate mutual learning and at the same time act as a support system as well.

STRATEGY

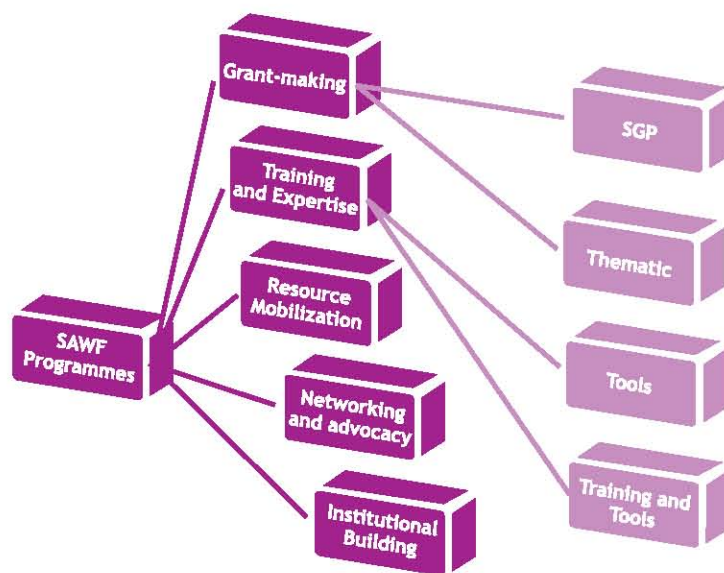
SAWF's vision and goal have been translated into its Strategic Plan that details out the roadmap for a sustainable philanthropic institution for, by and with women and women's movements that would contribute towards enabling environment for women's human rights in the region. The following clearly sum up SAWF's strategic approach to strengthening women's movement in South Asia:

- Identify and nurture innovative initiatives by women, addressing women's rights in the sub-continent
- Promote social justice philanthropy to ensure SAWF's maximum outreach and strengthen the women's rights work at the local and regional level

- Network with other women’s funds, international funders networks and like-minded organizations to work for convergence to ensure realisation of women's human rights.

PROGRAMMES

SAWF's strategy has been developed into an action plan which is very clearly reflected in our programmes. Following chart provides a clear picture our programme strategy:



Grant-making

SAWF believes that mobilization of women is essential for ensuring recognition and exercise of human rights; as women's rights activists and organizations are crucial to this mobilization, the fund is committed to support these change makers through working with them, building their leadership and providing critical fiscal and technical support to them.

A.I SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

SAWF initiated its grant-making with the small grants programme to enable women's groups and women's activists, especially those working at the grassroots level, to access critical support required for a project. These grants are of two types: innovative initiatives and workshop grants.

A.I.I INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES

This programme is aimed at innovative and distinctive initiatives, being led by dynamic women's organisations and leaders or second line leadership of the organization. Identified small amounts, ranging from USD 1500 to 5000 are to be utilized within one year from the date of issuance of the grant. SAWF believes that the small grants will ensure greater outreach of our work, especially at the grassroots level, where even though some ground-breaking work is being carried out, there is huge lacuna in terms of availability of funds.

For the year 2010-11, SAWF supported three such grants, two in India and one in Sri Lanka, for the amount of US\$ 11,500.



Mamta Soni: A life less ordinary

LEADERSHIP BUILDING OF DALIT AND MUSLIM WOMEN -
BUNDELKHAND (UTTAR PRADESH), INDIA

It has been a long and an extraordinary journey for Mamta Soni, fraught with constant struggle at both the personal and the professional front, making an inspiring transition from a survivor to a fighter. Like the fate of many girls in rural north India, Mamta was pulled out of school and married off at the tender age of fourteen. After being subjected to years of emotional and psychological abuse at the hands of her in-laws, she finally gathered the strength to leave after witnessing her neighbour and friend being burnt alive for dowry. Starting her journey with Mahila Samakhya and Vanangana in Chitrakoot, Mamta was very soon able to establish herself as a strong advocate for women's rights in the Bundelkhand region. The work gave

Mamta the strength to fight her battles at the personal front; she completed her high school and further went on to obtain a bachelor's and a master's degree, fulfilling her childhood dream. After having worked for 18 years with different organizations, Mamta decided to venture out on her own and founded her own organization DIYA in 2009.

Presently, with the support of SAWF, Mamta is working on leadership building of Dalit and Muslim women in five villages of Chitrakoot in the Bundelkhand region, which is one of the most difficult regions to carry out any developmental work. Seeped in feudalism and patriarchy, women occupy a very low status in Chitrakoot's society. Extreme poverty and violence are dominant, with the region being known as "dacoit central" of India. In these prevailing circumstances, the condition of Dalit and Muslim women are wretched; they are placed at the bottom of the social hierarchy, facing discrimination at the three levels of caste/religion, class and gender. Through her work, Mamta is trying to create a common platform where these women can come together to support each other in addressing their grievances and demanding their rights.

In this pilot project, 6 women from each of the 5 villages have been chosen to participate in a leadership building programme, which focuses on nurturing these potential leaders through awareness building, information dissemination, networking and exposure visits. Monthly workshops and meetings are convened to educate the women about various government benefit schemes and build strong support alliance of women from the five villages. Innovative techniques such as street plays, songs, games, story-telling, etc... are used to educate the women about their rights. In addition, exposure visits to local government offices, such as the Tehsil office, lower courts, police stations etc... are undertaken in order to enhance the confidence level of these women. Through this initiative, the women are getting a rare opportunity and space to gain knowledge and at the same time explore their own skills and abilities. The final outcome aims to bring about a change in their place within their own community by providing them with negotiating power within family and community.



Rituparna Borah: Breaking taboos!

SEXUALITY AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS - NORTH INDIA

Describing herself as a "young feminist queer activist", Rituparna does not believe in defining her identity within boundaries. Pushing these boundaries at the work front as well, she is challenging the existing taboos and social norms revolving around sexuality within the context of gender and women's rights in India, especially in the North. The age old belief that women are not sexual creatures but re-production machines is still a dominant notion in Indian society. Treated as property, women in many parts of the country are prisoners of the socially constructed image of the "good woman" - a vessel of socially approved "good" virtues. This mind-set has led to skewed effect on the way gender based violence is approached, not only by the state but by many women's rights activists and organizations as well.

As a part of the feminist organization Nirantar, Rituparna has been working on the sexuality project "Sexuality and US" for the past three years. Through SAWF's support, she is focusing on Gender based violence and sexuality, analyzing existing approaches to GBV interventions and making them more inclusive. Through her work, she addresses important issues, which have been deliberately ignored, such as, the victims of sexual violence can largely be classified as "heterosexual married women" or the "good women"; "bad women" or the sex workers, women who experience violence because of their sexuality (including lesbian and bisexual women), transgender people, women in extra-marital relationships, ... are always left out, making their plight "invisible". In addition, a large number of women approach GVB interventions because their partners want sexual acts that they consider to be 'unnatural' such as anal or oral sex; whether the partner is being coercive, or only expressing a desire to engage in them. The goal of the intervention is to make GBV interventions more inclusive and rights based by addressing issues related to sexuality. Much work is happening on GBV and on

sexuality in the region. However, till now GBV interventions have addressed only one aspect of sexuality and that is sexual violence. Through this project, Rituparna is going beyond the realm of just sexual violence and address other linkages between sexuality and GBV.

As part of the programme, Rituparna is working in partnership with grassroots women's organizations in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Delhi, conducting intensive training and capacity building on sexuality with staff and coordinators. Awareness and sensitization workshops are also conducted with Police officers, magistrates and protection officers. This critical intervention shows that sexuality is a critical factor underlying GBV, and how it can be addressed.

Furakkan Bannu, Muslim Women's Research and Action Forum: Giving voice to the subalterns!

RESEARCH ON THE HISTORY AND CULTURAL PRACTICES OF MINORITY
EASTERN MUSLIM COMMUNITY: EASTERN PROVINCE OF SRI LANKA

Muslim Women's Research and Action Forum [MWRAF] was born out of a round of informal meetings held in 1976 by a few Muslim women activists who wanted to raise the critical issue facing Muslim women in Sri Lanka. Formally registered as an NGO in 1990, MWRAF has been working to promote a tolerant environment in Sri Lanka, whereby various ethnic communities co-exist in communal harmony, respecting diversity and ensuring social justice and equality for all.

Thirty years of civil war and unrest had grave repercussions on Sri Lanka's minority Eastern Muslim community. Displacement and violence forced the community to live in constant fear and to seek refuge in enforced political identities. An urgent need was felt to document the threatened traditions and customs and history in order to provide an identity and visibility to the minority community, especially for the community women, whose plight has largely been ignored by the national and the international community.



SAWF approved a small grant for Furrakkan Bannu, a young and dynamic activist from the target marginalized community and a part of MWRAF's second line of leadership. With SAWF's support, the final compilation of the findings and research was published into a book, which aims to help in clearly defining the Eastern Muslim identity beyond the boundaries of religion and politics. It will also help mainstream the community, showcasing it in a positive light and countering the tag of "victimhood" and "outsiders" associated with them. The project stresses the unique cultural identity of Eastern Muslims in Sri Lanka and will enable them to take pride in their heritage.

A.I.II WORKSHOP GRANTS

SAWF does not restrict itself to just project grants. The organization believes that the women's rights movement in South Asia can be strengthened further if women leaders from different parts of the region are given opportunities to engage and network with each other. Hence, the SGP also consists of small fellowships and exposure grants to enable women rights activists to attend regional and national conferences, workshops and capacity building initiatives. The initiative will not only add to their learning process but also provide them with a much needed space to share their experiences with women's rights activists from other parts of the region. In April, SAWF supported three such women's rights activists to attend and participate in CREA's Count Me In Conference at Kathmandu on April 16th to 18th 2011. Following is a brief about the three grantees:

Hazara Khatoon, Bangladesh: A project facilitator with National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW), Hazara is a young women's rights activist working for the rights of women with disabilities in Bangladesh. The rights of WWDs are largely ignored in the country and as a result these women face discrimination in every sphere and are extremely vulnerable to violence and abuse.

Reshma Valliappan, India: Reshma is a Mental Health Activist working in collaboration with Bapu Trust, Pune. Battling with schizophrenia, she uses art as a medium of expression and advocacy; she was also involved in the drafting and amendments of the Mental Health Care Act 2010, under the guidance and support of NAAJMI, India.

Shirin Akhter, Bangladesh: Shirin is a visually impaired woman who works for the rights of disabled women in Bangladesh. She works with rural networks to enable access to rights for women with disabilities, especially those with visual impairment.

Technical Support Unit

SAWF has been successful in linking technical support with networking-outreach as well as resource mobilization. The technical support comprises two main aspects: (i) building knowledge and resource tools and (ii) providing training and expertise to other women's organisations and networks on rights based approach, universal standards of human rights, as well as planning programmes and research frameworks and documentation.

TOOLS:

DONOR MAPPING

Financial support is a critical instrument for social change. Women's human rights have been historically under- resourced and supported sites of work in the social justice sector. The evidence of this can be witnessed from the lack of resources allocated by states to women through the UN, in the garb of UNIFEM, which is the least resourced specialized agency. South Asia, especially has major lacuna of funds for women's rights work, considering it is ranked extremely low on the gender development index scale. All the South Asian countries are facing major political upheavals which have led to conflict situations in many instances. To fund work on women's rights in this context becomes all the more imperative. In 2004, AWID launched an action research study to identify key trends in funding for women's rights work in different parts of the work, which was shared through its Fundher reports as well as its "Where is the Money for Women's Work" project.

Taking AWID's study as reference point, SAWF has launched its Donor Mapping initiative which brings together some vital elements of SAWF's programming, including expanding our resource base, ensuring higher visibility and networking with other grantee and donor organizations. This baseline research will assess and identify the resources pledged and available for social justice work and allocation

for women's human rights work within that. The process will also highlight accessibility of women's groups and organizations to these resources. The research will involve engagement with prominent women's rights activists and women organisations (at local, national level and regional levels) in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh. The programme was initiated with a brainstorming meeting on methodology of the exercise in Delhi on 6th April, 2011. The lead consultant of the project, Ms. Niti Saxena, presented the draft tools with a small peer group, which was made up of women's rights activists, representative of donor agencies and researchers from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Following the conference, a pilot research has been launched.

TRAINING AND EXPERTISE:

PARTICIPATION IN RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS: GENEVA, 10TH JANUARY TO 4TH FEBRUARY 2011

SAWF was present at the CEDAW review of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka; and the UPR process for Nepal. This enabled us to learn about the critical national issues that are being advocated strongly at the national and international levels by women's groups. For our region, where conflict is very much part of many lives on a day to day basis; it is important for us as women's fund to understand the framework in which issues related to conflict, are being addressed by national groups, and processes through which they are seeking accountability from their states. We also used this opportunity in Geneva to dialogue with Jyoti Sanghera, UN Country Representative for Nepal, as well as an expert on issues related to women's movement and trafficking.

SAWF was also a part of IWRAW Asia Pacific's training and monitoring programme "From Global to Local Programme" in conjunction with the 48th CEDAW Session held in Geneva. The programme was attended by 23 NGO representatives and women activists from Israel, Kenya, South Africa, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Belarus. The participants attended the orientation and mentoring programme facilitated by two IWRAW Asia Pacific's resource persons, one of them being SAWF's Executive Director, Tulika Srivastava. We have been an integral part of this programme and have contributed to it in terms of technical and resource support,

which aimed at assisting the women's groups in countries reporting to the CEDAW Committee present alternative information to the Committee through the preparation of shadow/alternative reports highlighting critical issues in the reporting countries.

TRAINING AND ADVOCACY ON RIGHTS BASED APPROACH:

SHILLONG (INDIA), 22ND TO 30TH MARCH 2011

In the last week of March, at the invitation of North East Network, the Executive Director along with Niti Saxena and MG Sree Kala conducted a training workshop on application of normative standards of human rights to domestic claims in Shillong for a group of non-governmental organisations convened by the organisation North-East Network (NEN). The workshop aimed at providing an overall understanding of the normative value of the human rights framework, with an emphasis on international human rights standards and mechanisms in relation to women. This capacity building initiative was attended by various community organizations and activists from the north east, such as, Action North East Trust (Assam), Community Action and Research for Development (Chandel), Nagaland State Women's commission (Nagaland), North East Network (Nagaland), Assam Mahila Samita Society (Assam), Voluntary Health Association of Meghalaya (Shillong), academics and women's rights lawyers. The programme provided SAWF with an excellent opportunity to engage with Women's rights activists and organizations from the North east part of the country, which as a region is usually ignored by the state and International funding agencies.



Resource mobilization

SAWF hopes to establish itself as a strong social justice philanthropic institution carrying out effective interventions in the area of women's human rights. Unlike many funding agencies, SAWF is very clear about its role as a donor/philanthropic organization supporting change-makers rather than being direct a implementer of change itself. Hence, resource mobilization is an invariable and an important feature of SAWF's institution building. Ensuring SAWF's visibility through publications, and cultivating committed volunteers and interns are also crucial aspects of SAWF's resource mobilization endeavours.



Networking and Advocacy

The SAWF team is constantly engaging in various relevant networking initiatives in order to make its presence felt in the region, to reach out to the local groups in different countries and to gain an in-depth country specific understanding on women's rights. Following is a brief summary of SAWF's endeavours in the past year in this sphere:

SAWF is a member of The International Network of Women's Funds (INWF) which believes in promoting philanthropy within a feminist paradigm. The network also provides a unique platform for Women's Funds working around the world to

promote linking, sharing and learning. SAWF has also been actively engaging with INWF's Asian chapter, Asian Network of Women's Funds to support the research on availability of resources for women's political participation. This is a collaborative project for the network, which will enable us to build cohesive plans on resource raising and allocation, to support women's political participation in the region.

OUTREACH AND NETWORKING VISIT:

KATHMANDU (NEPAL), 20TH TO 24TH FEBRUARY 2011

In February 2011, the programme officer visited Nepal and engaged with various women's rights activists and organizations working in the country. The visit was crucial to gain an insight into the strategies and approaches being adopted by various local organizations working on countering trafficking and promoting safe migration. The visit also helped SAWF to explore the needs and requirements of various women's rights organizations in addressing women's rights in the region. The programme officer interacted with the following local organizations during her visit: Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD), Youth Action Nepal, Pravasi Nepal Coordination Committee, INSEC (Informal Sector Service Centre).

DHAKA (BANGLADESH), 4TH TO 9TH MARCH 2011

The Nepal visit was followed by a visit to Bangladesh by the Executive Director of SAWF in March 2011. The strategy was to initiate a relationship building process with women's rights organizations in Bangladesh, which would provide SAWF with an understanding of the nature of sustained support required to strengthen the women's movements in the region. It also gave SAWF an opportunity to share details about its grant-making portfolio in order to widen the base of our potential partners. During her stay in Dhaka, the Executive director visited women's rights activists, such as Shireen Haq, and organizations such as, Women's Rights and Civil Liberties Activist, Nari Uddog Kendra, Bangladesh Women's Fund, BOMSA, IOM Bangladesh, RIB, CARITAS, Ain-O-Salish Kendro, Doobar Network, BLAST, OKUP, Naripokkho and Banchte Shekha.

COLOMBO (SRI LANKA), 14TH TO 18TH MARCH 2011

The outreach and networking initiative in Colombo by the Programme officer had a focus on understanding the work of Sri Lankan women's rights organizations. During her stay, she met with the following local organizations: Nirmani Kantha Kavaya, Women's Support Group and Women and Media Collective, Surya Women's Development Centre, Kantha Shakthi, Women's Resource Centre, and Community Encouragement Foundation. The visit also gave SAWF an opportunity to meet and discuss with Farukkan Bannu from MWRAF, the progress on her work on the publication of a book on Muslim culture in the East.

NETWORKING WITH REGIONAL PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS:

GFCF CONFERENCE, KATHMANDU (NEPAL), 16TH TO 18TH MARCH, 2011

SAWF participated in the South Asia convening of Global Fund for Community Foundations in March 2011 in Kathmandu. The workshop brought together small community funds in South Asia to engage in a dialogue on the value of, and need for philanthropic work with small communities, to promote self-sustaining development interventions. The focus was on the lack of recognition for community philanthropy, and the need for community resources being invested in community; as well as the intangible return of the recognition of local leadership. Another objective was to establish a strong collaborative network that would ensure effectiveness of various local philanthropic organisations. The conference provided SAWF with a valuable opportunity to engage with a number of potential allies, and learning research concerns and methodologies.

Institution Building

In order to ensure the establishment of a strong organizational structure, which efficiently utilizes and gains access to various strengths of the region, SAWF has adopted an "open office" strategy. We have established the executive office at Lucknow, and are simultaneously working on opening a liaison account in India for its smooth functioning. The Colombo office shares space with Neelan Thirucheravelan Trust, and coordinates all finance management.

Learning and Accountability process is crucial to SAWF's institutional building. To ensure the organization's growth and success, it is imperative to have in place tools for transparency and accountability. We believe that learning from our partners and creating a feeling of ownership about the organization in them is imperative to our success. In addition, carrying out of institutional processes related to due diligence and accountability is also important to SAWF's institutional building.



THE WAY FORWARD

Moving Women: Right to mobility and security

South Asia Women's Fund (SAWF), is launching its thematic grants to support programmes that address trafficking and advocate the safe movement and migration of women. The grants are aimed at strengthening the resource base and capacities of organizations which approach these issues from an innovative and rights based perspective, in Nepal, Bangladesh and India.

Countering trafficking and supporting women's right to safe and secure movement is its key thematic concern. This programme will support groups working to ensure women's right to safe movement, security and countering trafficking. The focus of funding will be Capacity Building, Advocacy and Innovations. In order to advocate for the application of these interventions within human rights framework, it is important to focus on nuanced interpretation and increased application of relevant International normative standards/instruments. This also demands for supporting knowledge creation, management and dissemination of relevant legal frameworks as well as the ways in which they are being implemented and judicially interpreted, and their impact on women.

With the help of a legal expert an analytical research assessment of the laws and policies related to trafficking (especially in relation to the nature of migration policies and laws), their implementation and impact on women in Bangladesh, Nepal and India will be undertaken. The assessment will bring out the gaps in the approaches undertaken by the state, to address trafficking on one hand; and the ability of women to claim their rights in relation to safe movement and to use the laws to address trafficking on the other.

SAWF Legal Fellows

By 2012-13, SAWF will launch its new programme, the SAWF Legal Fellows programme. The goal of the legal fellowship programme is to strengthen access to justice for women in the region, by promoting feminist legal advocacy, through enhancing feminist lawyers by and for women in the region. The fellowship programme will promote learning and exchange between women lawyers in

South Asia, and enhance the sharing of the understanding of law and legislation pertaining to women's human rights in the region and its importance in promoting women's rights and social justice. The programme will focus on women from mofussil (small towns), already in the legal profession, but have been denied opportunities due to gender, caste, class and other obstacles, and have limited exposure to ideas of human rights, social change and advanced legal advocacy, including normative standards, understood well internationally. The programme will also enable the fellows to mentor younger lawyers in their own areas, enabling the building up process of a regional legal network; committed to human rights.

Donor-Grantee interface dialogue

One of the main objectives behind SAWF's grant-making is to build a new line of women's leadership addressing women's issues within a rights based context. The legacy of SAWF should be its contribution to the women's rights movement in South Asia and creation of dynamic women leaders at the local, national and regional level. As a fund we are aware of our limitations in terms of financial support and realize that our grantee-partners cannot be dependent on us, which characterizes most of the donor-grantee relationship in the region. To avoid this "crippling phenomenon", the fund will attempt to link the phasing out partners with other like-minded donors, in order to ensure the continuation of their critical work. SAWF will contribute by creating a space where donor-grantee interface dialogue can be carried out. This aspect is extremely critical to SAWF's identity as a social justice philanthropic organization!

GOVERNANCE

Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors consists of 7 Directors, representing both national concerns in the regional and thematic expertise. They are activists, entrepreneurs, legal professionals and financial experts.

NAME	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	AREA OF EXPERTISE
Priya Paul	Founding Director and Chairperson	India	Industry
Kumudini Samuel	Member-Director	Sri Lanka	Women's rights activist
Sepali Kottegoda	Member-Director	Sri Lanka	Women's rights activist
Gagan Sethi	Member-Director	India	Development Expert
Rita Thapa	Member-Director	Nepal	Women's rights activist
Tahera Yasmin	Member-Director	Bangladesh	Development Expert
Aisha Gazdar	Member-Director	Pakistan	Arts and Media

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Advisors

In addition the board, SAWF is fortunate to have a vibrant and supportive team of expert advisors whose guidance is critical to the organisation's growth!

Niti Saxena, a development professional, lawyer and an expert on usage of research as a tool to develop and forward women's human rights agenda, is supporting SAWF in developing its programmatic strategy and will provide advice on its implementation

Sunila Abeysekera, well-known human rights activist from Sri Lanka, is supporting SAWF in its grant-making work, as well as in ensuring that SAWF is able to outreach critical networks in the region

Jaell Silliman well known for her work and commitment to human rights globally is supporting SAWF on developing its strategic profile, and advocacy portfolio to build its ability to advocate the enhancement of indigenous philanthropy towards women's rights.

Jana Rumminger, has expertise in documentation and rights based approach, in addition to supporting SAWF's documentation, will also be contributing her expertise to enable a stronger outreach for SAWF partners in the region.

Bandana Pattnaik, from GAATW will be supporting the implementation of SAWF's thematic grant-making on countering trafficking and ensuring safe movement for women.

Staff

Post-transition, SAWF, under a new and dynamic leadership has expanded its team, which comprises committed professionals, dedicated to the cause of women's rights in the region. The organization is extremely proud of its all women team! SAWF has an open office, where the Executive office operates from Lucknow and the registered office from Sri Lanka.





AUDITOR'S OPINION

SOUTH ASIA
WOMEN'S FUND

SAWF





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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of South Asia Women's Fund ("the Company"), which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2011, and the statement of income and expenditure and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements thereto.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standard for Smaller Enterprises ("SLASSE"). This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Scope of Audit and Basis of Opinion

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting policies used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. We therefore believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, so far as appears from our examination, the Company maintained proper accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2011 and the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Company's state of affairs as at 31 March 2011 and its income over expenditure and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with SLASSE.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

These financial statements also comply with the requirements of Section 151(2) Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

12 August 2011
Colombo

SOUTH ASIA
WOMEN'S FUND

SAWF

BALANCE SHEET 2010-2011


SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 March,

	Note	2011 Rs.	2010 Rs.
Non current assets			
Property plant and Equipment	2	7,81,076	66,125
Total non current assets		7,81,076	66,125
Current assets			
Investment in Short term deposits	3	84,37,941	99,83,863
Other receivables	4	61,633	7,521
Cash and cash equivalents	5	2,87,84,171	3,71,452
Total current assets		3,72,83,744	1,03,62,836
Total assets		3,80,64,820	1,04,28,961
Funds			
Accumulated fund			
Balance as at beginning of the year		95,44,180	1,27,83,624
Excess/ (deficit) of income over expenditure for the year		2,79,01,692	(32,39,444)
Balance as at end of the year		3,74,45,872	95,44,180
Current liabilities			
Accounts Payable	6	2,11,502	8,29,802
NGO tax payable	7	4,07,446	54,979
Total current liabilities		6,18,948	8,84,781
Total funds and liabilities		3,80,64,820	1,04,28,961

The annexed notes to the financial statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

These financial statements are prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.



Accountant/Finance Controller

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with SLASSE.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors:



Director

12 August 2011
Colombo



Director

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND

For the year ended 31st March,

	Note	2011 <u>Rs</u>	2010 <u>Rs</u>
Income			
Grants received			-
-Ford Foundation		20,928,480	-
-Mama Cash		6,875,789	-
-Oak Foundation		12,163,572	-
-Institute of International Education		-	804,845
Interest Income		108,915	242,405
Total Income		40,076,756	1,047,250
Less: Expenditure			
Staff expense	8	6,784,370	165,000
Grant for project activities	9	1,277,650	-
Exchange loss		1,041,131	100,184
Cost of transport and foreign travel		537,843	1,102,568
Rent expenses		405,277	-
Consultancy fee		315,504	1,929,634
Secretarial fee		223,802	217,556
Office maintenance		216,821	-
Office expenses- Colombo		201,144	-
Miscellaneous expenses		157,069	-
Accommodation		150,879	105,025
Bank charges		122,027	51,159
Stationery		95,134	-
Depreciation		74,415	2,875
Telephone and email charges		45,616	37,264
CREA		44,156	-
Postage and courier charges		26,310	-
Tax consultants fee		16,500	15,000
Global Fund for Women		14,085	-
Audit Fee		65,620	46,500
Storage expenses		-	18,388
Secretarial fee under provision		-	53,315
Expenses on coordinator's meetings		-	114,136
Correspondence office		-	211,490
expenses on SAFR workshop for Ms. Priya		-	46,000
Expenses on RA workshop for Ms. Tulika		-	63,356
Total Expenses		11,815,353	4,279,450
Surplus/ (deficit) before taxation		28,261,403	(3,232,200)
Taxation	7	359,711	7,244
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year		27,901,692	(3,239,444)

The annexed notes to the financial statements are an integral part of these financial statements.





SAWF Team, from L - R, Anisha Chugh (JPO), Tulika Srivastava (ED), Puja Roy (PO) Buddhika Edirisinghe (FO), Naadira Hassen (Prog and Admin Asst) and Vineeta Tiwari (Exec Asst)

SOUTH ASIA
WOMEN'S FUND

SAWF

**is grateful to
the Ford Foundation, Oak Foundation
and Mama Cash for their support and solidarity!**

Please visit us at

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